

Message Text

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ORIGIN USIA-09

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DRAFTED BY USIA:IMV/C:JW MENDENHALL:ONJ
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P 120316Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

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FOR (P AND C)

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: BERLIN FILM WEEK

REFERENCE: BERLIN 523 (C); STATE 014982 (U)

1. IMV AND IEU OFFICERS APPRECIATE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT SET FORTH
REFTEL ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOC FOR APRIL/MAY BERLIN
FILM EVENT.

2. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF GERMAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF FEATURE
FILMS TO SUCCESS OF EVENT, AND APPARENT DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING
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FOR LOCAL DUBBING OR SUBTITLING, QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF
GERMAN VERSIONS FROM FRG ASSUMES GREATER IMPORTANCE THAN EVER.
PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER USIS BONN HAS BEEN ABLE TO HELP, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH STATE 014982 (U).

3. IMV WOULD WISH TO DEFER FORMAL DISCUSSION WITH MPAA/WASHINGTON
UNTIL SOURCE OF GERMAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS IS KNOWN, AND WHETHER

SUCH SOURCE INCLUDES FILM TITLES WHICH LEND THEMSELVES TO PROGRAM EMBASSY HAS IN MIND.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS BELIEVED HERE THAT THE QUESTION OF CHARGING ADMISSION TO THE SCREENINGS COULD BE AN IMPASSABLE ISSUE WITH THE MEMBER COMPANIES OF MPAA. FOR EXAMPLE, IMV IS SPECIFICALLY DEBARRED BY COLUMBIA PICTURES FROM SHOWING COMMERCIAL (PAID ADMISSION) UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ANY OF THREE (MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON, MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN AND LOST HORIZON) CAPRA FEATURE FILMS PROVIDED FOR USE WITH THE IMV SERIES: FRANK CAPRA: THE MAN ABOVE THE TITLE. WHILE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY BE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE FILM INDUSTRY IS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL, IT IS A REAL CONCERN TO AMERICAN COMPANIES. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO LEASE OUTRIGHT A THEATER IN EAST BERLIN? AS WELL AS RESOLVING THE ADMISSION ISSUE, THIS COULD HAVE THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF OBTAINING THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL SHOWING OF EAST GERMAN FEATURES IN THE U.S., WHICH USG CANNOT UNDERTAKE NOR GUARANTEE THAT ANY PRIVATE DISTRIBUTOR OR ORGANIZATION WILL IN FACT DO SO. WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED? IEU IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN DEFRAYING PARTIALLY ANY REASONABLE EXPENSE INVOLVED. ADVISE.

5. IMV IS MOST INTERESTING IN RECEIVING, PREFERABLY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, ANY LISTING SUPPLIED BY GDR FILM ARCHIVES MENTIONED PARA GRAPH FIVE REFTEL WHICH MAY PROVIDE IMPORTANT RESOURCE SHOULD IMPASSE DEVELOP ON AVAILABILITY U. S. FEATURES.

6. ONCE INFORMATION IS RECEIVED FROM USIS-BONN ON AVAILABILITY OF GERMAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF FEATURE FILMS, AND WHEN IMV HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE, PLUS DESCRIPTION HOW EMBASSY EXPECTS TO PRESENT FILM PROGRAM, IMV CAN DISCUSS PLAN WITH MPAA AND ADVISE WHAT ASSISTANCE MARC SPIEGEL MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER.

7. FYI: FOLLOWING MEETING IN WASHINGTON WITH P AND C COUNSELOR ALEXANDER, IMV MENTIONED INFORMALLY TO G. GRIFFITH JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, MPAA, INTEREST OF EMBASSY BERLIN IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF FILM WEEK, AND IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH SPIEGEL WHEN IT APPEARED THAT QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE WERE READ FOR APPROACH.

8. FYI: PROFESSOR ROBERT WAGNER (DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF CINEMA, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY), VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION SCHOOLS (CILECT), FEBRUARY 4 INFORMALLY ADVISED IMV THAT M. PETER ULBRICH, RECTOR, DDR FILM SCHOOL (KARL MARX STRASSE 33/34, 1502 POTSDAM-BAELSBERG; PHONE-POTSDAM 78981-83) IS "CAPRA FAN." WAGNER, WHO APPEARS WITH CAPRA IN IMV SERIES IS EXPECTED TO BE IN EUROPE (PARIS AND POSSIBLY LEIPZIG) FOR MEETINGS OF THE

CONGRESS DIRECTORS. IF ALL WORKS OUT, WAGNER MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE (WHETHER OR NOT ON SAME SCHEDULE AS CAPRA) IN A SEMINAR, PERHAPS INCLUDING SUITABLE COOPERATION WITH THE DDR FILM SCHOOL. IMV CHECKING ON CAPRA AND WAGNER SCHEDULES, AND WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED.

9. FYI: DR. JOHN B. KUIPER (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS) HAS JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES (FIAF), AND EXPECTS AGAIN BE IN EUROPE THIS MAY FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF FIAF AT VARNA, BULGARIA. KUIPER IS ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION FILM WEEK OR SPECIAL PROGRAM. IMV EXPECTS DISCUSS SUCH POSSIBILITY WITH KUIPER NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL ADVISE.

10. UNDER SEPARATE COVER IMV IS FORWARDING KIT OF COLLATERAL DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS PREPARED FOR USE WITH THE IMV CAPRA SERIES (AS SHOWN TO P AND C COUNSELOR ALEXANDER), AS PROMISED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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11. FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, MOTION PICTURE EXPORT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA REPRESENTATIVE FOR ESTERN EUROPE MARC SPIEGEL MAY BE REACHED AS FOLLOWS: SCALE D. INT. 12, VIA DEL TRITONE 61, ROME, ITALY; TELEPHONE 68-88-42 OR 43. END

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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SAS ID: 3334644
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